



General Assembly

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Agenda item 53 (e)

**Sustainable development: implementation of the
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought
and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa**

Sudan:* draft resolution

Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/211 of 23 December 2003, 61/202 of 20 December 2006, 62/193 of 19 December 2007, 63/218 of 19 December 2008 and other resolutions relating to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Acknowledging that desertification, land degradation and drought are global problems requiring global action,

Welcoming the decision adopted in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 3 July 2009 by the Assembly of the African Union at its Thirteenth Ordinary Session authorizing the African Union to accede to the Convention,

Concerned by the negative impacts that desertification, land degradation, loss of biodiversity and climate change have on each other, and recognizing the potential benefits of complementarities in addressing these problems in a mutually supportive manner,

Welcoming the decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventeenth session regarding desertification and drought,¹

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 9 (E/2009/29-E/CN.17/2009/19)*, chap. I, sect. B, resolution 17/1.



Concerned that extreme desertification and land degradation processes also affect a quarter of the Latin American and Caribbean region as well as Asia, increasing the vulnerability of poor communities and compromising food security, and that this is a situation which has not been perceived in all its magnitude,

Alarmed by the negative impact on the environment and the economy of the increasing frequency and severity of dust/sandstorms affecting semi-arid regions,

Acknowledging the Convention to Combat Desertification as one of the tools for poverty eradication, and reiterating its resolve to eradicate extreme poverty, promote sustainable development and improve the livelihoods of people affected by drought and/or desertification, taking into account the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008-2018),

Recognizing the need for greater investment in sustainable land management, and emphasizing the need for the full implementation of the ten-year strategic plan and framework,

Noting that the ten-year strategic plan and framework highlights the importance of the development and implementation of scientifically based and sound methods for monitoring and assessing desertification,

Recognizing the need to strengthen the scientific basis underpinning the Convention, and noting the instruction given by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, at its eighth session, to the Committee on Science and Technology to conduct its future sessions in a predominantly scientific conference-style format, addressing specified themes,

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Argentina for hosting the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Buenos Aires from 21 September to 2 October 2009,

Welcoming the offer of the Government of the Republic of Korea to host the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Gyeongnam Province in the autumn of 2011,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;²

2. *Welcomes* the outcome of the seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and its policy recommendations, particularly those related to strengthening the institutional framework for policy implementation, implementing practical measures to combat land degradation and desertification, and enhancing capacity-building, transfer of technology and financing;

3. *Invites* Member States to continue to integrate plans and strategies related to drought, desertification and land degradation into their national development strategies;

4. *Invites* Member States to promote and implement effective national, regional and global drought information, forecasting and early warning systems that disseminate reliable information for communities living in drought-prone regions, to enable them to take appropriate and proactive measures, with adequate support from

² A/64/202, sect. II.

their respective Governments, relevant institutions, such as new and existing drought observatories, and the international community;

5. *Supports* the improvement of existing and the establishment of new centres of excellence and monitoring in developing countries to combat desertification and promote capacity-building to adopt and implement, inter alia, integrated techniques for the conservation of natural resources and their sustainable use, and invites regional and international programmes and funds, as well as donors, to provide support to affected countries in their endeavours to combat desertification;

6. *Calls* for the promotion of sustainable management of soil as one means of mitigating the effects of drought;

7. *Invites* Member States and relevant organizations to cooperate at the global and regional levels with a view to preventing and managing dust/sandstorms, including by sharing related information, forecasting and early warning systems;

8. *Renews* its call for coherence among United Nations programmes, funds, agencies and entities working on desertification, drought and land issues under the aegis of the secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification;

9. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Committee on Science and Technology and, in this respect, welcomes the outcome of the first United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Scientific Conference, held in the context of the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, including the agreement on indicators for a rigorous monitoring and assessment of desertification, land degradation and drought trends;

10. *Welcomes* the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the assessment of the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification³ as well as the decision of the Conference of the Parties at its ninth session requesting the Bureau to undertake and supervise an evaluation of existing and potential reporting, accountability and institutional arrangements for the Global Mechanism and their legal and financial implications, including the possibility of identifying a new institution/organization to house the Global Mechanism, taking into account the scenarios presented in the Joint Inspection Unit assessment of the Global Mechanism and the need to avoid duplication and overlap in the work of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism and also requesting the Bureau to present to the Conference of the Parties at its tenth session a report on that evaluation for consideration and decision on the issue of Global Mechanism reporting, accountability and institutional arrangements;

11. *Requests* all States parties to the Convention to promote awareness among local populations, particularly women, youth and civil society organizations, of, and to include them in, the implementation of the ten-year strategic plan and framework, and encourages affected States parties and donors to take into account the issue of participation of civil society in Convention processes when setting priorities in national development strategies, in conformity with the comprehensive communication strategy adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth session;

³ A/64/379.

12. *Invites* developed country parties to the Convention and other donors to the Global Environment Facility to provide, in the fifth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, resources that are a significant increase from the current level in order to allow the Facility to fully implement targeted activities in all focal areas, in particular that of land degradation;

13. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the Executive Secretary of the Convention to continue the administrative renewal and reform of the secretariat and to realign its functions in order to fully implement the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit and bring those functions into line with the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008-2018);

14. *Decides* to include in the United Nations calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2010-2011 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for the biennium;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make provisions for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in his proposal for the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa";

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including a report on the implementation of the Convention.